

**REMARKS**

At the outset, it is noted that all claims in the instant application have been canceled with the exception of claims 64, 66, and 67. Cancellation of the claims is made without prejudice to filing a subsequent continuation, divisional, or continuation-in-part application containing the same or similar claims and/or to prosecuting the same or similar claims in an already-filed continuation, divisional, or continuation-in-part application. Moreover, it is again stated that Applicant, in no way, agrees with the Examiner's characterization of the Ahmed et al. patent because thermoplastic and thermosetting materials are recognized in the art as being distinct resinous materials that amount to being a difference of kind. It is noted further that claims to non-elected inventions have been canceled to expedite the prosecution of the instant application.

The objection to claim 33 is noted; however, such claim has been canceled. Thus, such objection should be withdrawn.

Claims 25-34 and 36-39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Such rejection should be withdrawn in view of the cancellation of these claims.

Claims 25-37, 39-40, 44, 47-48, 55-57, 64-67, 73, and 81-87 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e), as being anticipated by Ahmed et al. Such rejection, as it pertains to claims other than claims 64, 66, and 67, should be withdrawn in view of the cancellation of such claims. Applicant submits that claims 64, 66, and 67, as amended, are novel over Ahmed et al. and that the rejection or anticipation should be withdrawn.

Applicant notes that the Examiner considered that foam structures taught by Ahmed et al. read upon the "expanded polymeric material" recited in claim 64. Claim 64 has been amended to specify that an expanded fiber is claimed, rather than a polymeric material. Clearly, the expanded foam of Ahmed et al. does not read on a polymeric fiber. Moreover, claim 64 has been amended to

specify that the superabsorbent polymeric material is incorporated into the expanded fiber. Again, Ahmed et al. does not disclose such incorporation. Hence, rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) should be withdrawn.

Applicant further points out that it would not be obvious to incorporate superabsorbent polymeric particles or films into an expanded polymeric fiber in view of Ahmed et al. because such features are neither disclosed nor suggested by this patent. The placement of superabsorbent polymeric powders or films into polymeric fibers is believed to advance the art and to result in an unobvious new class of highly absorbent products.

Claims 25-27, 37-38, 73, and 81-83 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), as anticipated by Young et al. Such rejection should be withdrawn in view of the cancellation of these claims.

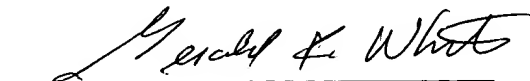
Finally, Claim 38 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), over Ahmed et al. taken further in view of Young et al. Such rejection should be withdrawn in view of the cancellation of this claim.

Applicant considers that the application is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests notification to such effect.

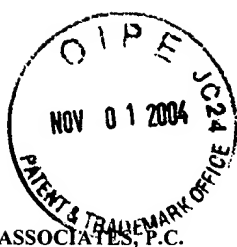
Should the Examiner have any questions or require additional information or discussion to place the application in condition for allowance, a phone call to the undersigned attorney would be appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

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